

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

"Complexity creates a maze between you and success. Simplicity ensures a clear line of sight." ~ Lee J. Colan

Friday, August 7, 2009



Commissioner Buss recognized and congratulated many of the on-line staff during a recent visit to Correctional Industrial Facility. (See photo, left.)

A Kairos Weekend Seminar at New Castle Correctional Facility started this week with 42 offenders participating. Approximately 100 outside volunteers assisted and presented the program.

The Internal Affairs Division at Westville has arranged to donate all the facility's confiscated cell phones to the Stepping Stone Women's Shelter, a woman's crisis intervention center in Michigan City. Thus far, IA has approved 50 cell phones to be given to the shelter.

PEN Products recently held a Career Planning Workshop for 26 offenders at the Plainfield Correctional Facility. Twenty-two DOC staff participated in the workshop covering topics such as the O*Net Interest Profiler, Career Planning, and Job Retention. This marks the second PEN Products Offender Career Planning Workshop based on the National Institute of Corrections' Offender Workforce Development Services model. The first workshop was held at the Miami Correctional Facility, and the goal is to offer this to all PEN Products offender workers.

Henryville Correctional Facility held a ceremony honoring the Henryville charter of Toastmasters International. The charter, named "Successfully Speaking," has now been in existence for a year. District Toastmaster delegates were on hand for the ceremony to certify membership and present a certificate to the facility.

Rockville Correctional Facility donated crocheted animals to the Local Coordinating Council of the Governor's Commission on Drug & Alcohol Abuse. The animals will be distributed to children visiting the booth at the Parke County Fair and Parke County law enforcement's Night Out.

New Castle Correctional Facility held a Staff Recall this week. Officer Robin Blair was named Officer of the Month, and Larietha Clark and Jennifer Pierce were named Co-employees of the Month.

Pendleton Correctional Facility off-grounds work crews provided 1,664 hours of community service during July. Since January 1, crews have logged a total of 11,068 hours. The facility will also be providing two night crews to perform cleanup work at the Indiana State Fairgrounds from August 7 through August 23.

Fourteen youth from South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility were recently able to participate in the "Baby Think it Over" program. The life-like electronic baby dolls were with the students 24 hours a day for an entire weekend to simulate the stressors of being a new parent.

The Indiana State Prison welcomed the IDOC's Division of Program Review this week for the annual internal audit. The facility received a score of 100% on the mandatory and 99.12 % on the non-mandatory standards.

In July, thirty-six bicycles were refurbished in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears program, while thirteen wheelchairs were refurbished in the Wheels for the World operation.

New Castle Correctional Facility Superintendent Jeff Wrigley, Assistant Superintendent Scott Fitch, and Internal Affairs Investigator Brian Patterson served as waiters at the Bella Vita Restaurant's luncheon to raise \$1200 for the United Fund.

Romeo and Juliet, rewritten to reach troubled youth by Wabash Valley offenders involved in the Shakespeare Program, was shown to Youth Incarcerated as Adult offenders this week. The offender "players," all serving life sentences for crimes committed as teens, urged them to think of the consequences of their actions as they prepare to re-enter society.

Simeon Square Assisted Living received 71 pounds of vegetables from the Indiana State Prison apprenticeship garden.

South Bend Juvenile hosted an ASIST suicide prevention training this week. 12 staff members from South Bend Juvenile, Camp Summit, and CMS were able to participate in this 2-day course.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner